

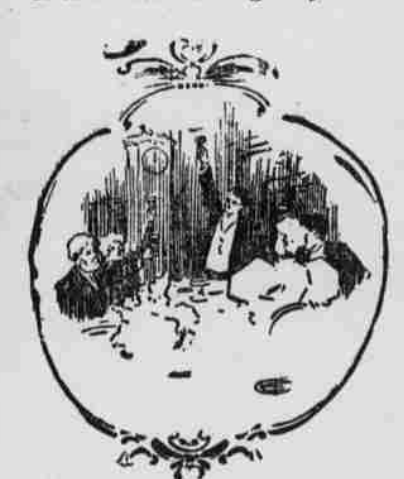
Welcome the Coming, Speed the Parting Guest.



The dead leaves flit across the world,
And swiftly spins the weather-vane;
The Old Year's golden grains are told,
And New Year time is born again.

Then toss the logs upon the hearth,
And let the brim-ful kettle boil;
Of earnest care let there be dearth,
Grant good cheer as the wage of all.

In garnered heaps rich treasures lie,
Gleaned artfully from many a field;
The hungry crowd 'neath the sky,
Or calls from out the gloomy wild.



So put the pot upon the board,
And gather round each face so dear,
Fill up the cup, fill up the bowl,
And bumper drink to the New Year.

A STRANGE NEW YEAR'S CALLER

By Mary Phillips Tatro.

It was the last night of the old year, and I was half-sitting, half-lying in a large easy chair before my bright library fire. I had been smoking, but the retrospective mood into which I had fallen, proved too much for the lighted end of my cigar, and it had died completely.

The old year that was dying seemed like an old friend whose last hours I had come to fill with things we had both enjoyed and suffered together. The last old-time chat before the chiming midnight bell should part us forever.

I had been in the habit of writing very late nights, and even now my desk and library table were covered with books of reference, quantities of manuscript in almost every stage of incompleteness, the latest papers, magazines, "respectfully declined" packages, intermingled with those of acceptance, and many other trifles which go toward making up a literary man's life.

By finishing article, for the hour-trained to have old year all to read resting at my elbow, which, by the way, I had not done yet, but that's neither here nor there regarding my strange visitor and what he said to me.

As I said before, my head was thrown back in a very restful position, and the light was shaded by a crimson silk affair that created a rosy, mellow twilight through the room, which, together with the warm glow of the fire, caused me to congratulate myself upon my good fortune in having so many comforts, even though I was obliged to work with my pen aghast and dry, almost, facing so many disappointments, disagreeable editors, and all that sort of thing.

And then, as my mind drifted from one thing to another, the happenings of a whole year, the new friends I had made, the old ones who had gone away, the clock struck ten. I had still two hours with my departing comrade, two hours before I would be

called upon to welcome the new comer, whose name, I believe, is 1897.

My head had dropped still lower down upon the cushions, and I think I must almost have dropped into a doze, when a shadow came suddenly between my eyes and the rosy light of the lamp.

This fact brought me to myself very quickly, I assure you, and with a start of surprise, I raised my head to see who or what had gained entrance to my room without my knowledge or any previous manifestation whatever.

I was obliged to look twice before I saw anything, and then, such a strange creature as met my startled gaze. A little, old man, weather-beaten, wrinkled, white-haired, and so weary-looking, sat perched upon a pile of books, his feet crossed, a worn old hat upon his head, and altogether, he appeared to have been buffeted life's blows for some time, with neither haven nor calm wherein to recruit his shattered strength.

"Oh, yes," there are many little children, and a few grown-up children, a very few of the last named, who are so dear to me that it almost hurts me to think of them, and I shall be at rest."

The gray head falls lower down upon the fully-heaving breast, and the weary lids close over the sunken eyes, as though too tired to ever lift again.

"Is there nothing—nobody that the parting from gives me pain, you ask?"

"Oh, yes," there are many little children, and a few grown-up children, a very few of the last named, who are so dear to me that it almost hurts me to think of them, and I shall be at rest."

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end of the year, so that he may pass out satisfied with his journey here and be able to carry a good report into eternity. But, alas! I fear he will meet with the same fate that has befallen the rest, every one of us, so far. But, see here: look at this package. This is labeled "Glad-bundle." You see, when I think of leaving this world, I feel as though I were carrying a bundle of sorrow, and the spell lasted just three days. You see, I had to begin with many of my bundles the second day after my arrival, and they increased every moment from that time until my poor, aching head almost refused to carry its burden. I am glad I am almost ready to shut off only one hour more, and I shall be at rest."

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ists, representing ice and snow effects. But despite the interest of the surroundings, one could see nothing, think of nothing but the man himself—the great, strong, simple man who was speaking—English Illustrated Magazine.

Safety on Water and Land.

The British board of trade has issued a statement of the number of lives lost by accident in British merchant ships during the past year.

This statement shows the average loss to be about five-sixths of 1 per cent of the number of men employed. The percentage of lives lost in sailing vessels is somewhat larger than that of steamers.

There were 218,224 men employed on British ships registered in the United Kingdom. Of these 55,635 were employed on sailing ships and 162,129 on steamships. The latter suffered a loss of 815 seamen and 34 passengers, making a total of 847. Sailing vessels lost 1,029 seamen and 21 passengers.

The British statement is interesting in connection with the report of the United States inspector general that a person is very much safer journeying on sea than on land, whether on business or pleasure here.

According to this report, of 600,000 journeys made last year only 221 ended in a fatal accident. Otherwise stated, the percentage of fatalities was one in 2,711 journeys.

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WORK OF WRECKERS.

CAUSE OF THE ILLINOIS NATIONAL FAILURE.

Officers of the Bank Played for Millions and Failed—Tried to Depreciate Calumet Electric Stock, and Then Bay It Up—The Whole Scheme Laid Bare.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—The National bank of Illinois, one of the oldest and best known banking institutions in the city, and with assets of between \$12,000,000 and \$15,000,000, closed its doors yesterday, the following notice being posted before the opening of banking hours:

"This bank is in the hands of the national bank examiner—By order of the comptroller of the treasury."

Of the sixteen banks that cleared through the National Bank of Illinois, two closed their doors as a result of the closing of that institution. These were those of E. S. Dreyer & Co. and Wasmund & Heinemann. These two institutions were mortgage loan banks and savings societies and their failures are not expected to affect any business houses. The assets of E. S. Dreyer & Co. are given at \$1,600,000, with liabilities of \$1,800,000. The figures for Wasmund & Heinemann are, approximately: Assets, \$650,000; liabilities, \$640,000.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—The failure of Angus & Gildale, general contractors; the American Brewing, Malt and Elevator company and George A. Wells, individually, all of these being due to the collapse of the National Bank of Illinois, and small runs on three banks were the echoes yesterday of the bank failures of Monday.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—W. A. Hammond, second vice president of the National Bank of Illinois, who has been charged with pulling the wool over the defunct bank, would not talk when seen in his palatial home at Evanston. Through his intimate friend, however, he made a statement which is calculated to incalculable several directors, as well as two or three men who are not connected with the bank.

"W. A. Hammond is to be made the scapegoat of the failure of the National Bank of Illinois," said the friend. "Hammond is a broken man today, but he is not any more to blame for the amount of money loaned on Calumet securities than are the members of the finance committee of the bank and the directors. Hammond is a broken man today, but he is not any more to blame for the amount of money loaned on Calumet securities than are the members of the finance committee of the bank and the directors."

"Of the bank's funds, \$2,475,000 had been loaned on the Calumet securities. The plan for wrecking was brilliant. On intimate friends, however, Hammond is a broken man today, but he is not any more to blame for the amount of money loaned on Calumet securities than are the members of the finance committee of the bank and the directors."

"The loan was increased with the full knowledge of members of the finance committee, and Hammond is a broken man today, but he is not any more to blame for the amount of money loaned on Calumet securities than are the members of the finance committee of the bank and the directors."

"The officers of the bank, finding that the bank examiner was not on their trail, began to push the transactions they had on foot for the sale of the Calumet securities. Hammond is a broken man today, but he is not any more to blame for the amount of money loaned on Calumet securities than are the members of the finance committee of the bank and the directors."

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CONGRESSIONAL.

December 21.—The house practically completed the consideration of the consideration of the executive and judicial appropriation bill. After a somewhat acrimonious debate on the congressional library item, the appropriations committee gained a victory, defeating a substitute of the library committee by a vote of 27 to 85. Under the provision of the bill as adopted, Librarian Spottford will continue in office with an increase of salary from \$4,000 to \$6,000. The Senate amendments to the immigration bill were concurred in and a conference agreed to.

It was Cuban day in the senate. The galleries were crowded and there was a deluge of reports and resolutions. Presentation of Mr. Cameron's report was the main event. A supplementary report was filed by Senators Morgan and Mills, and resolutions by Senators Vest, Hill, Culom and Bacon. Report of the senate foreign relations committee acknowledging Cuba's independence and proffering friendly offices to Spain to end the Cuban war, is a strong and very lengthy document and shows European precedents for the course proposed.

The house passed the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill and then adjourned for the holiday recess. The senate discussed Pacific railroad matters, referring the whole question to the Pacific railroad committee, and adjourned for the holidays to January 5, 1897.

SLAIN BY ROBBERS.

A Rich Bachelor Farmer Found Murdered Near Savannah, Mo.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Dec. 23.—Alfred Wilson, aged 70, one of the best known residents of Andrew county, was murdered some time last night by robbers at his home, one mile northeast of Avenue City and seven miles from Savannah. Wilson was a bachelor and was rich. Some time ago he became so embittered against banks that he drew out all his deposits and was supposed to have concealed them about his home.

ST. PAUL BANKS CLOSED.

The Old Minnesota and Its Stock Yards Branch Forced to the Wall.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Dec. 23.—The Bank of Minnesota, capital \$600,000, the oldest and generally considered one of the strongest banks in the Northwest, closed today. State Bank Examiner Kenyon taking possession of the assets. The Union Stock Yards bank, which is closely connected with the bank of Minnesota, also closed its doors.

MINISTER ARRESTED.

A Preacher's Unusual Way of Getting Material for a Sermon.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Rev. David Kirkpatrick, pastor of the Second Universalist church of this city, was arrested yesterday. He is accused of accosting a woman on the street and asking permission to accompany her. She refused, whereupon he threatened to arrest her. Kirkpatrick acknowledges talking with the woman, but states it was a method adopted by him for the purpose of obtaining material for a series of sermons.

BODINE SERIOUSLY ILL.

Congressman-Elect From the Second District Seriously Ill.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 23.—R. B. Bodine, congressman-elect from the Second district, is very ill of pneumonia. At the late election he carried the Second district by an overwhelming majority, defeating Charles A. Leomin of Chillicothe, his Republican opponent, by over 5,000 votes.

Death in Backstreet Cakes.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 24.—Fire members of the family of F. M. Roberts, a fireman on the Missouri Pacific railway, were poisoned by eating cakes made of prepared backstreet flour yesterday. Four of them are at the city hospital, and it is doubtful if they will recover.

A Hired Man's Revenge.

MADISON, Minn., Dec. 24.—Fred Jobinski and son were murdered and his wife wounded last night by the hired man. The murderer is still at large. Jobinski was a farmer living twelve miles south here, and had opposed the marriage of his daughter to the hired man.

Mrs. Harrison's Watch Recovered.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 24.—Several weeks ago General Harrison was robbed of a gold watch belonging to his wife. He offered a reward for its recovery, and yesterday he received a package from Chicago containing the watch.

A Probate Judge "Sooner."

GUTHRIE, Ok., Dec. 23.—In a contest case from Lincoln county the commissioner of the general land office holds that Probate Judge Allison was dishonest from taking land, though he was ordered into the reservation on official business by the government and in no way took advantage by his presence.

Bryant Not Captured.

PORT HART, Kan., Dec. 23.—George Bryant, the Missouri Pacific shop employee who shot his wife and her father, has not been captured. Search parties were out last Sunday night, but yesterday no trace of the fugitive has been found.

Negro Fined Lynched.

MAYFIELD, Ky., Dec. 23.—Jim Stone, colored, charged with criminal assault on Mrs. J. M. E. Green, a white woman of this city, was lynched last night by a mob. The mob tore down the jail door and took the prisoner from the officers.

Mr. Morrill's Partner Dead.

HIWASSEE, Kan., Dec. 23.—Charles B. Jones, for many years the associate of Governor N. Morrill, died Sunday evening at 8 o'clock. Mr. Jones was the pioneer banker of Brown county and possibly Northeastern Kansas.

A Train Dispatcher a Suicide.

PANAMA, Kan., Dec. 23.—E. H. Hunsicker, chief train dispatcher of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad here, committed suicide today by shooting himself with a revolver. It is hinted that drinking and financial troubles were responsible for the deed.

A Rich Missourian a Suicide.

PILOT GROVE, Mo., Dec. 24.—William J. Gray, a wealthy cattleman of Bell county, committed suicide yesterday by hanging himself in the loft of his barn. He was an influential Democrat and a Mason of note. He had been insane for some time.

Not One of the Miners Perished.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Dec. 23.—A canvass of the homes of miners employed in the Baltimore mine, where the explosion occurred, shows that all the men escaped.

BOLD TRAIN ROBBERS.

THE CHICAGO & ALTON AGAIN HELD UP.

Blue Cut, Near Kansas City, Famous for Fast and Bold Robberies, the Latest Job—Done in a Workmanlike Manner—The Passengers Not Molested.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 24.—Passenger train No. 49, on the Chicago & Alton railway, that left the Union depot at 8:45 o'clock last evening was held up and robbed an hour later a mile and a half east of Independence, near Blue cut, the spot made famous by train robbers on three previous occasions.

The train was in charge of Conductor Nichols, of Roodhouse, Ill., a veteran on the road. Engineer P. & Mead, of Slater, was on the engine, and A. J. Frier was in charge of the express car. He had an enormous amount of express matter, much of it valuable, although little of it was in cash, the greater amount being Christmas goods.

The fact of the robbery was made known by Conductor Nichols, who walked back to Independence and reported it to the company. He said the train was flagged by a gang of men at Blue cut, and as it stopped two men sprang on the engine and, covering them with guns, forced Engineer Mead and his fireman off the engine.

Conductor Nichols was in the smoking car when the train was stopped, and as he stepped out on the platform to see what was wrong he met a member of the bandit gang, who commanded him to step down off the car and throw up his hands, which he promptly did. He was asked if he had any of the company's money, and when he said he had not the robber went through his pocket and found four silver dollars, which he appropriated.

Then the conductor was forced to step in and uncouple the train behind the baggage car and cut the bell rope, after which all the members of the gang climbed on and the engine and cars pulled away.

Rifted the Through Safe.

After the robbers had stopped their special in the Glendale cut they rapped on the door of the express car, Express Messenger Fryer did not know what had occurred, and when he opened the rap at the side door, thinking it was the brakeman, he opened it. The man with a shotgun compelled him to retreat into the car, while the second others followed with revolvers, and ordered him to throw up his hands. The men then pulled him from the car. He was too excited to answer. Then they picked him up and threw him bodily into the car, and one of the men, who was about 35 years of age and now wore a mask, climbed in. The man who got into the car proceeded to break the rap at the side door, thinking it was the brakeman, he opened it. The man with a shotgun compelled him to retreat into the car, while the second others followed with revolvers, and ordered him to throw up his hands. The men then pulled him from the car. He was too excited to answer. 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